

Little Long Pond Questions and Answers, 2014 CSLAP

Q1. What is the condition of our lake this year?

A1. Water quality conditions in Little Long Pond appear to have improved slightly in recent years. Water clarity was higher than usual, consistent with lower phosphorus and algae levels, and no open water or shoreline algae blooms were reported. Aquatic plants continued to grow to the lake surface.

Q2. Is there anything new that showed up in the testing this year?

A2. The HABs testing includes information about the types of algae found in the water samples. These results showed relatively low open water algae levels that are usually comprised of green algae, and no open water or shoreline blooms have been reported in at least the last two years.

Q3. How does the condition of our lake this year compare with other lakes in the area?

A3. Little Long Pond had higher water clarity and lower algae levels, than the typical lake in the area, although nutrient levels were comparable. Aquatic plant coverage continues to be more extensive than in these other lakes.

Q4. Are there any trends in our lake's condition?

A4. Water clarity has increased since the late 2000s, consistent with a decrease in algae levels over the same period (and despite an increase in phosphorus levels from 2006 through 2012). As a result, water quality and recreational assessments improved over this period.

Q5. Should we be concerned about the condition of our lake? Are we close to a tipping point?

A5. Little Long Pond may be susceptible to shoreline algae blooms, based on elevated nutrient levels, although no blooms have been reported in at least the last few years. The higher nutrient levels and associated sediment load may have contributed to favorable conditions for plant growth. Any reductions in nutrient or sediment loading to the lake could reduce the susceptibility to harmful algae blooms or invasive plant growth.

Q6. Are any actions indicated, based on the trends and this year's results?

A6. Individual stewardship activities such as pumping your septic system, growing a buffer of native plants next to the water bodies, and reducing erosion from shoreline properties and runoff into the lake will help to maintain lake health by reducing nutrient and sediment loading to the lake. Visiting boats should be inspected to reduce the risk of new invasive species, since nearby lakes harbor several invasive plants not presently found in the lake.

Lake Use				
Potable Water				Not applicable
Swimming				Excessive nutrients
Boating / Fishing				Surface plants
Aquatic Life				No impacts
Aesthetics				Surface plants
Fish Consumption				Not applicable
	PWL	Average Year	2014	Primary issue

 Supported
 Threatened
 Stressed
 Impaired
 Not Known